

Renewed Difficulties of Charles.

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well as for the Church. The princes were jealous of a power which, in overthrowing the Reformation, sought to diminish the territorial jurisdiction to which the extension of the Reformation owed so much. They refused to sanction the establishment of a league, with an organised military force, as an attempt to buttress the imperial power at their expense, though it would have tended to make the government of the empire something of a reality, and not the sham that it was and had long been. They protested against the maintenance of Spanish troops in the empire as contrary to the condition of the imperial election. Nor could Charles afford as the result of the war to stamp out Lutheranism. He could not let loose the Inquisition against the heretic in Germany as in Spain. At most he could only return to his old device—an accommodation—though this time the accommodation was decidedly in favour of Catholicism. He was even unable to make use of the General Council to this end. The pope had, in March 1547, removed the Council from Trent to Bologna in order to retain the mastery over its decisions, had refused to transfer it to Trent at Charles' demand, had in fact been praying and intriguing, for political and papal reasons, for the success of the elector against the emperor, resented his interference in matters of doctrine, and would not hear of any irenic concessions to the Protestants. Charles was therefore driven to make a compromise on his own responsibility; and this compromise, which surrendered the absolute supremacy of the pope over the Church, split the difference in regard to justification by faith, clerical marriage, and communion in both kinds, and was to hold good pending the final decision of a General Council, was dubiously accepted by the Diet at Augsburg under the name of the Interim (May 1548).

The acceptance of the Interim by the Protestants, whether voluntary or enforced, by no means solved the religious question. Melancthon played as usual a pusillanimous part; many of the Protestant theologians sought refuge in exile; Bucer and Fagius emigrated to England. But the spirit of the dead Luther was not crushed. It lived in the more resolute of his followers, and to these the Interim was a rock of offence. Charles' proposal to elect his son Philip King of the Romans, as prospective successor of Ferdinand to the imperial